

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 20 2006

Serial Number 10/646,377
Docket Number CH920010016US1
Amendment

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the second paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Today, effective~~ Effective management and processing of e-mails has been a central concern for companies and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for many years. Several solutions have been developed to deal with unsolicited e-mails, or spam. Most of these solutions use some algorithms, or some hand-crafted rules, for e-mail profiling and filtering but they are just partially effective and it is, usually easy to fake them (PCWorld, 2000). Most of these systems are intended to alleviate e-mail overload in open network environments, such as the Internet.

Please replace the third paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

However, in corporate networks, e-mail overload does not come generally from spam, or junk mail, but more from irrelevant and unimportant business e-mail exchange between employees. Many employees in big corporations are ~~overload~~ overloaded by daily avalanches of internal e-mails from colleagues. This happens mostly to employees in middle management of large corporations who receive large amounts of unimportant e-mails from upper and lower corporate units.

Please replace the first paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

There are some systems which are used for managing e-mail and avoiding each user ~~to receive~~ from receiving a large amount of trivial or irrelevant e-mail. The existing systems can be classified in three classes:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 30 and ending at page 3 at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

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~~There~~ there are two main types of systems which offer such functionality which consists in automatic routing of e-mail at a server or at a client (user) level. Systems with predefined categories[[,]] and systems which discover the categories ~~through~~ through a categorization process which uses some clustering algorithm. In the case of predefined categories, the user specifies the categories (or classes) he/she wants to partition the mail box into, and then gives the system a few typical e-mail examples which represent each category (or class). These typical examples are used for system training using some machine learning algorithm which allows ~~to infer~~ inferring decision rules for automatic classification of future incoming e-mails. In the second type of systems, the number and content of the categories are automatically discovered from the set of e-mails of a user's mail box. These systems define some similarity measure between documents (e-mails) and then group similar documents into clusters which are further refined either through merging several clusters or through splitting too general ones.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The systems with such functionality allowed management of ~~allow to manage~~ e-mails either based on the size of incoming and/or outgoing messages, or based on ~~the~~ a predefined limit size of the user's mail box. Some systems allow to either block incoming or outgoing e-mails above some threshold size, or reschedule their routing to subsequent time to optimize bandwidth cost.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, ~~the main object~~ an embodiment of the invention is ~~to achieve~~ a method of assigning a ~~price~~ cost to an e-mail in a way which reflects the cost of transmitting and processing the e-mail, such a cost being determined by the infrastructure constraints and the user preferences.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

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The request for an e-mail is submitted to a market engine which ~~constitutes a feature of the invention. The market engine~~ may be a local market engine when running at the client device associated with each user or a central market engine when running as a server. The market engine estimates the cost of the e-mail by using some criteria as described below (step 12). Then, the cost estimation is submitted to the sender (step 14) together with side information which might be the explanation of the status of the receiver (e.g. not receiving e-mails at some time).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

Then, the sender has to agree or not with the estimated cost (step 16). If the sender thinks that the submitted cost is too high ~~important~~, he decides not to transmit the e-mail which is canceled (step 18). If he accepts the cost, the e-mail is forwarded to the receiver by the market engine (step 20).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Insofar as it is generally not wanted to send e-mails having a very large ~~important~~ size, the cost of an e-mail is, as a general rule, a direct function of the e-mail size S . However, it can be judicious to define also a matrix wherein each element $S(i,j)$ determines the cost factor depending on the size of the e-mail sent from user i to user j .

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The intrinsic criteria are defined ~~define~~ by a matrix T where each element $T(i,j)$ is the initial cost factor of sending an e-mail from user i to user j on some subject. The values of the factors $T(i,j)$ are determined by the corporate guidelines.